29th December 1953]

" (b) None of the existing Assistant Professors has so far acquired any probationary rights in the professorial cadre. The answer to this clause is, however, in the affirmative."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether the Executive Committee of the Madras Medical Association expressed its views on this question and if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Committee that went into the question of the improvement of the service conditions of medical officers in the non-clinical line has recommended an extension of the age of retirement up to 60 years. The general opinion in this country as well as in other countries is in favour of extending the age of retirement of the teaching staff, not only non-clinical but also clinical, because it is very difficult to get men with suitable qualifications and teaching experience for teaching work in our medical colleges."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Apart from the general question of raising the retirement age from 55 to 60, have the Government considered the injustice and discouragement caused to the Assistant Professors if extension of service or reemployment of retired professors were to be ordered when any vacancy occurs? " 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There can be no injustice. When the Assistant Professors get into the Professors' posts, they too may get the same concession."

Periods of work of First Grade Pandits in higher forms.

* 15 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state with reference to Legislative Council starred question No. 223 answered on 25th July 1953;

(*a*) whether the question of reducing the periods of work in higher forms in the case of First Grade Pandits has been considered; and

(*b*) if so, at what stage the matter stands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The question is still under consideration."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that on account of the insistence on a particular number of periods of work in higher forms, what was given through the Government Order by the right hand has been taken away by the left hand? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is why we are trying to consider with both the hands and do the needful." (Laughter.)

[29th December 1953

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that especially in the case of Hindi Pandits where they have only two periods a week per class this works a great hardship and no Pandit is able to get the first-grade salary? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is why we considered the matter. Otherwise, we would never have considered it at all."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Though the Government have stated that both B.T. and the Pandit's grades are the same, is there any discrimination made in the salary actually paid to them? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

Free educational concessions to the children of the Vannar Community.

* 16 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of any resolutions passed at the conference of Vannar Community requesting the grant of free educational concessions to their children; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to grant full fee concession to children belonging to Vannar Community?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have issued instructions authorizing the grant of full fee concessions to the children and dependants of members belonging to the barber, fisherman, dhobi and potter communities subject to certain conditions. Copies[a] of the orders are laid on the table of the House."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the concessions are restricted only to those who reside in rural areas and those who practise their hereditary occupation and as such the concession has become virtually of no use to this class of people, may I request the Hon. Minister to extend the concessions to Municipal areas also? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the matter has been fully considered and we have extended the concessions only to rural areas. I do not think it is necessary for the urban areas. As a matter of fact, their conditions are much better than many of the other classes of people."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" In view of the fact that the practice of hereditary profession has been made the condition

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 73–75 infra.